

Seabirds and pinnipeds of Sartine Island, Scott Island group, British Columbia.— On 2 August 1975 the authors visited Sartine Island ( $50^{\circ}40'N$ ;  $128^{\circ}55'W$ ), which consists of one main island and three other islets or cluster of islets in the Scott Island group at the northwest end of Vancouver Island (figure 1). Sartine Island was approached in an inflatable rubber Canova boat from Triangle Island, where the senior author investigates alcids. From west to east, we named the islets of the Sartine Island group as follows: Little Sartine, First Sealion Rocks, Second Sealion Rocks and Sartine. Carl et al. (1951) visited the main island, Sartine, on 21 and 22 June 1950 and briefly described its flora and fauna. The second and third islets were named Sealion Rocks

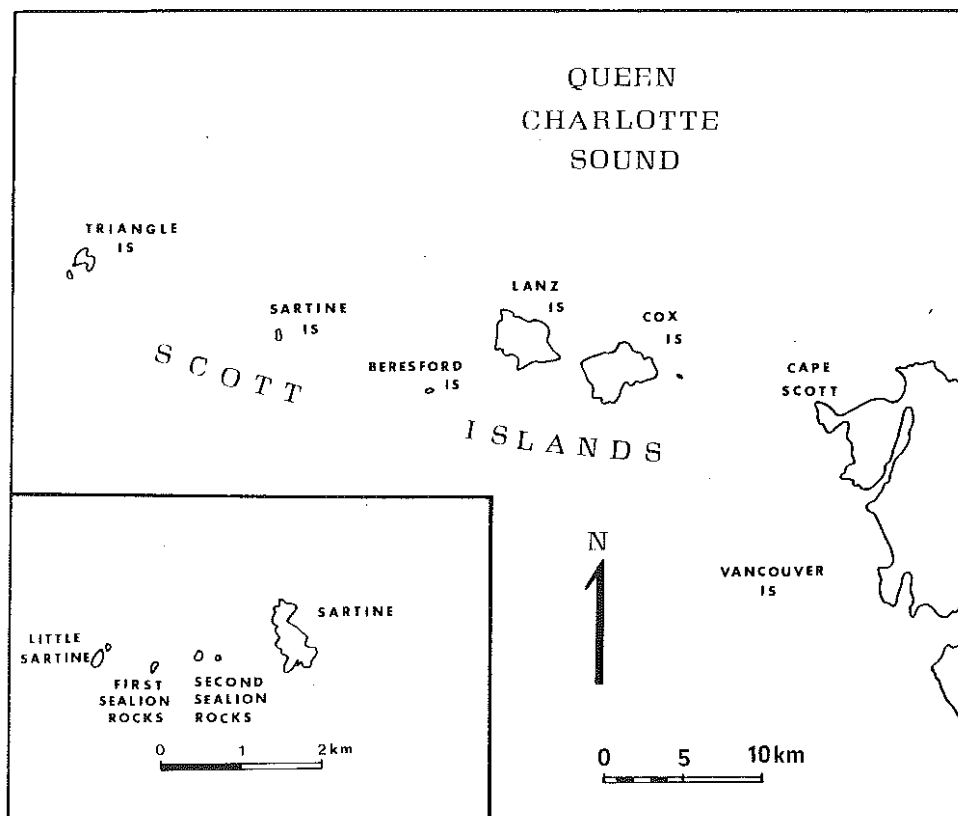


FIGURE 1. Location of Sartine Island in the Scott Island group on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island.

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TABLE 1. Number of birds observed at the Sartine Island group on 2 August 1975.

SPECIES	Little Sartine	First Sealion Rocks	Second Sealion Rocks	Sartine	Total
Brandt's Cormorant		3		32*	35
Pelagic Cormorant	19*		9*	108*	136
Bald Eagle				1	1
Peregrine Falcon				1	1
Black Oystercatcher			1	24	25
Glaucous-winged Gull	300*est.		40*	400*est.	740
Common Murre	330*est.			270*est.	600
Pigeon Guillemot	28		46	216	290
Ancient Murrelet				1	1
Cassin's Auklet				1	1
Rhinoceros Auklet				1	1
Horned Puffin			5	3	8
Tufted Puffin			1	50*est.	50
Northwestern Crow				2	2

\* Nesting  
Est.—Estimated

because of the large number of northern sea lions (*Eumetopias jubata*) resting on the bare rocks. We counted 573 and 70 adult northern sea lions on First and Second Sealion Rocks, respectively. Together with 300 adult northern sea lions previously observed during a count conducted around Triangle Island, the population of this species may be around 1000 animals in the outer Scott Islands.

We navigated around each islet or cluster of islets in the Sartine Island group and counted or estimated the number of birds seen on land and adjacent waters for about one hour (table 1). Twenty nests of Brandt's Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*) with attending adults were observed on the west side of Sartine. Although Carl et al. (1951) and Hancock (1971) conducted brief ornithological investigations at Sartine Island, they do not mention the presence or nesting of this species. The sighting of the nesting Brandt's Cormorants on Sartine constitutes the third breeding record for this species in British Columbia. The other two colonies are situated on Great Bear Rock in Barkley Sound and on Sea-Lion Rocks just north of Barkley Sound off the central west coast of Vancouver Island. They are, respectively, 322 and 305 kilometers to the south of Sartine Island. Sartine constitutes the northernmost known colony of this species in British Columbia. The Sartine Island colony appears to be the smallest of the three. One hundred and seven nests were observed on Great Bear Rock in 1970 (Campbell in Guiguet 1971) and 110 and 81 nests on Sea-Lion Rocks in 1965 and 1967, respectively (Stirling and Buffam 1966, Campbell and Stirling 1968). Since all three colonies have been found during the last decade and seabird investigations along the British Columbia coast have been extensive but not yet intensive, other Brandt's Cormorant colonies may be discovered there in the near future. Brandt's Cormorants breed as far south at Baja California, Mexico (Palmer 1962). To the north, the small colony in the Prince William Sound region is the only known colony in Alaska (Isleib and Kessel 1973).

Common Murres (*Uria aalge*) were first discovered to breed on Sartine Island in 1968 (Hancock 1971). Hancock counted approximately 250 adult murres on Sartine Island on 18 July in that year. The murres appeared to have increased since then as we estimated 600 adults on cliff sites of Little Sartine and Sartine (table 1).

Besides navigating around the islets, we also landed on the east side of Sartine and made a short excursion to the top of one of the small hills of that island. However,

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continuous rain and shoulder-high and wet grass, *Elymus* sp., prevented us from making any serious ornithological investigations. On the hill top we observed numerous nesting burrows of alcids, presumably those of Cassin's Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*). As it was the end of the breeding season of Cassin's Auklets on nearby Triangle Island, no burrows were investigated for nesting birds on Sartine. Hundreds of Tufted Puffins (*Lunda cirrhata*) had been observed during a previous helicopter journey on the two highest hill slopes of Sartine.

During the half-hour sea voyage from Triangle to the Sartine Island group, we observed 5 Glaucous-winged Gulls (*Larus glaucescens*), 2 Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), 18 Common Murres, 4 Cassin's Auklets, 32 Rhinoceros Auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*), and 280 Tufted Puffins at sea. Thirty Sooty Shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) and one Fork-tailed Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) were observed on the return trip to Triangle Island. No systematic count was made of alcids on the return voyage because of continuous rain and upcoming mist which made observations difficult.

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